

fast FACTS...

October 2003

about Sedgwick County Government



Shigellosis in Sedgwick County

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What is shigellosis (commonly called 'shigella')?

Shigellosis is a bacterial infection caused by direct or indirect fecal oral transmission from a symptomatic patient or a short term asymptomatic carrier.

How is shigellosis spread?

The usual mode of transmission is through contaminated hands that transfer the bacteria to food or water. Person-to-person transmission may also occur. Flies may transmit the disease by carrying the bacteria on their legs to food. Dogs that eat human feces may transmit the disease to people, especially children.

Who can get shigellosis?

Only humans carry Shigella. It affects people of all ages, however infants and elderly individuals are at a greater risk of infection.

What are the symptoms of shigellosis?

Symptoms usually include bloody diarrhea accompanied by fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, and painful, involuntary contractions of the anus. Symptoms normally appear between one to three days. The illness usually lasts between four to seven days. Mild and asymptomatic cases may occur, however, severe cases can result in death.

How is shigellosis diagnosed and treated?

Shigellosis is diagnosed by a laboratory test done by a doctor. Antibiotics are used to treat the illness and are usually effective in shortening the length of the illness.

How can I get more information on shigellosis?

For more information on shigellosis, call the Sedgwick County Health Department at 660-7392.

Or visit the Sedgwick County website at www.sedgwickcounty.org.

How can you prevent shigellosis?

You can help prevent infection and transmission of shigellosis by taking these simple steps:

- Always wash your hands after using the bathroom, before preparing or serving meals, and before eating. Remember to wash your hands with soap and warm running water for at least 20 seconds.
- Wash fruits and vegetables before eating.
- Always wash hands after petting animals and changing diapers.
- Consume water from a safe source.



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